

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION--ITEM 12(B)

REF: GRICE-TAUBENFELD TELECON MARCH 2

1. AS MENTIONED IN REFTELCON, CHAIRMAN SADI ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF MARCH 2 THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN AP REPORT WHICH VERY ACCURATELY REVEALED MUCH OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL DISCUSSED IN CLDSED SESSION UNDER 12(B). AT THAT TIME IT WAS REITERATED THAT ALL PROCEEDINGS UNDER THIS ITEM ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND THE SECRETARIAT WAS MOST DISTRESSED THAT A MEMBER STATE HAD PROVIDED THE PRESS WITH DETAILS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE AP ARTICLE OCCURRED DURING THE SESSIONS ON MARCH 3. HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT PRECLUDE FURTHER MENTIONING OF THIS ITEM DURING THIS SESSION. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE AP STORY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. HUMAN RIGHTS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND AP -- THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS ASKED THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO ANSWER
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CHARGES OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, A COMMISSION SOURCE SAID WEDNESDAY.

AS THE COMMISSION ENTERED ITS SECOND DAY OF STRICTLY CLOSED-DOOR MEETINGS TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN 10 COUNTRIES, THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST ETHIOPIA HAVE INCLUDED INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS, TORTURE

AND LACK OF ANY RULE OF LAW.

HE SAID ETHIOPIAN DELEGATES TO THE 32-NATION COMMISSION HAVE LATELY DENIED ALL CHARGES LEVELLED AT THE COUNTRY, ARGUING THEY MERELY CONSTITUTED PROPAGANDA. TWO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SO FAR BEEN SCRUTINIZED IN THE PRIVATE PART OF THE FIVE-WEEK COMMISSION SESSION HERE ARE BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY, SAID THE SOURCE WHO ASKED NOT TO BE NAMED.

HE SAID THAT ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE PARAGUAY GOVERNMENT HAVE INCLUDED THE ILL-TREATMENT OF SEVERAL TRIBES OF INDIGENOUS INDIANS. THE PARAGUAY DEBATE TOOK UP MOST OF WEDNESDAY MORNING, HE SAID.

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THE COMMISSION SOURCE LISTED THE 10 COUNTRIES UNDER SCRUTINY IN THE PRIVATE SESSIONS AS ETHIOPIA, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA, UGANDA, INDONESIA, SOUTH KOREA, URUGUAY, CHILE, EQUATORIAL NEW GUINEA AND MALAWI.

HE SAID A DEBATE ON VIOLATIONS IN UGANDA WAS SCHEDULED FOR LATER WEDNESDAY AND POSSIBLY THURSDAY MORNING, WHILE PRIVATE REPORTS ON CHILE WOULD BE BRIEF SINCE THAT COUNTRY HAD ALREADY BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN OPEN UNCLASSIFIED

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SESSION SINCE THE COMMISSION FIRST CONVENED OVER THREE WEEKS AGO.

THE CLOSED-DOOR TALKS FORM THE AGENDA ITEM UNDER WHICH A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS ALLEGEDLY EMERGED IN COUNTRIES UNDER DISCUSSION.

THESE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO LAST AT LEAST UNTIL MID-THURSDAY, SAID THE COMMISSION SOURCE, AFTER WHICH HE SAID THE COMMISSION DELEGATES MAY DECIDE, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ALL DECISIONS TAKEN.

PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE OPENING THREE WEEKS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE, SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL. END TEXT. SORENSON

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